

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3279

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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AMEMBASSY MANILA

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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USMISSION USUN

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CHMAAG CHINA

327 AIRDIV TAIPEI AS

18TFW/DOI/CCK AB TAIWAN

COMIPAC

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AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 HONG KONG 13848

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

ISLAMABAD FOR DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CH
SUBJECT: WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA NO. 52

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SUMMARY. AS THE YEAR ENDS THE POLITICAL ROLE OF THE PLA CONTINUES TO BE A SENSITIVE DOMESTIC ISSUE, WITH THE REGIME CONTINUING TO SLOWLY FILL VACANT TOP PROVINCIAL SLOTS AND MILITARY GENERAL STAFF POSITIONS. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NCNA CARRIED A ONE SENTENCE REPORT ABOUT VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER'S TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE. ON VIETNAM PRC ATTENTION TO THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT ANNIVERSARY WAS A NOTCH ABOVE LAST YEAR'S. END SUMMARY

1. INTERNAL SCENE
THE YEAR WHICH BEGAN WITHE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TRANSFER OF THE MAJORITY OF THE MILITARY REGION (MR) COMMANDERS AND THEIR LOSS OF POLITICAL POWER BASES IS NOW ENDING WITH THE MATTER OF THE PLA'S POLITICAL INFLUENCE STILL IN QUESTION. THE TRANSITION TO PARTY LEADERSHIP IN THE PROVINCES VACATED BY THE MILITARY HAS BEEN MOVING AHEAD ONLY GRADUALLY WITH BUT THREE OF THE SIX
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TOP POSITIONS FILLED (HONG KONG 13745). REPORTS OF TENSIONS BETWEEN THE PARTY AND MILITARY LEADERS CONTINUE AND A POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL POLITBURO MEETING ON DECEMBER 18 COULD HAVE INCLUDED THIS ON ITS AGENDA (HONG KONG 13747).
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2. SIGNALS REMAIN MIXED ON THE AMOUNT OF LEVERAGE THAT EITHER SIDE IS ABLE TO WIELD. A PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE (DECMEBER 21)

POINTED AT THE SOVIET MILITARY'S BUDGET SPENDING AND ITS EFFECT ON THE USSR ECONOMY SEEMS CLEARLY WRITTEN FOR AN INTERNAL CHINESE AUDIENCE. A RECENT TSINAN MR DIRECTIVE APPEARED TO PUT THE FIELD ARMIES UNDER LOCAL PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADERSHIP FOR ALL BUT MILITARY MATTERS WHICH, IF IMPLEMENTED NATION-WIDE, WOULD SEVERELY RESTRICT MR COMMANDERS' AUTHORITY (HONG KONG 13764). ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FORMATION OF THE CANTON MILITARY COMMAND WAS PROMINENTLY SPRINKLED WITH PLA PERFORMERS INCLUDING THE RANKING DEPUTY COMMANDER'S SLOT--A FAR CRY FROM THE SHANGHAI MODEL OF COMPLETE PARTY CONTROL (HONG KONG 13685).
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3. THE POLITICAL MOVEMENT WHICH WAS KICKED OFF IN FEBRUARY AND SHARPLY CURTAILED THIS SUMMER PERSISTS IN EXHORTATIVE FORM AS THE MOTIVATING FORCE FOR A STILL IN MANY WAYS ILL-DEFINED ECONOMIC CAMPAIGN DIRECTED AT PRODUCTION. APPEALS FOR THE DEEPENING OF THE HOLDOVER MOVEMENT TO CRITICIZE LIN PIAO AND A CONFUCIUS EQUATE ITS REVOLUTIONARY ROLE WITH STUDY (SINKIANG DAILY DECEMBER 21 BROADCAST) AND ITS CHIEF CURRENT TASK AS "REVOLUTIONIZING" THE CADRE TO FURTHER MOTIVATE THE MASSES (WR 51). THE CADRE'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN SHIFTING THE OLD MOVEMENT INTO THE NEW ECONOMIC CAMPAIGN THUS WILL BE KEY. IF THEY DO NOT MAKE THE PROPER ADJUSTMENTS TO GET IN FRONT OF THE NEW PUSH THEY APPEAR TO BE IN FOR FURTHER BUFFETTING (SEE ANHWEI DECEMBER 19 BROADCAST OF CHEN YUNG-KUEI'S SPEECH IN SHANSI).
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P R 240600Z DEC 74
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 HONG KONG 13848

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

ISLAMABAD FOR DAO

4. NEW APPOINTMENTS

AS PART OF ITS EFFORT TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS ON THE LEADERSHIP SIDE, THE CENTER HAS BEEN ANNOUNCING MAJOR CHANGES IN ITS MILITARY LINE-UP AMONG THE DEPUTY CHIEFS OF STAFF AND HAS BEEN SLOWLY FILLING IN VACANT PROVINCIAL SLOTS. THE PLA RECEIVED ITS FOURTH NEW DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF IN TWO WEEKS, HO GHENG-WEN (HONG KONG 13819), WHILE THE GENERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT MOVED UP SECRETARY GENERAL WANG TI-KANG TO A DEPUTY DIRECTOR SLOT, POSSIBLY INDICATING HIGHER LEVEL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE APPOINTMENTS IN THE OFFING. THE FOURTH TOP CIVILIAN PROVINCIAL POST TO BE FILLED SINCE THE AUGUST 1973 TENTH PARTY CONGRESS WENT

TO VETERAN CADRE PENG CHUNG IN KIANGSU
WHO MOVED UP OVER THE HEADS OF HEAVILY CRITICIZED SUPERIORS
(HONG KONG 13745). THE ONGOING POSITION FILLING HAS FURTHER
HEIGHTENED THE ANTICIPATION OF A FORTHCOMING NPC.
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5. UNITED STATES

NCNA DECEMBER 20 CARRIED A ONE-SENTENCE ARTICLE ON THE SWEARING
IN OF VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER. THIS IS THE FIRST MENTION
WE HAVE NOTED OF MR. ROCKEFELLER'S NOMINATION AND CONFIRMATION
PROCESS BY PRC MEDIA.
UNCLASSIFIED

6. ETHIOPIA

THE PRC, WHICH TOOK NINE DAYS TO REPORT THE FALL OF EMPEROR
HAILE SELASSIE (WR 39), HAS BECOME THE FIRST COUNTRY TO HAVE
A NEW AMBASSADOR PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS TO THE ETHIOPIAN
MILITARY GOVERNMENT (ADDIS ABABA 15020). THE NEW PRC AMBASSADOR,
YANG SHOU-CHENG, HAD DEPARTED HIS PREVIOUS POST AT KHARTOUM IN
JUNE AND HIS PREDECESSOR DEPARTED ADDIS SOME TIME AGO INDICATING
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THAT THE APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN PLANNED PRIOR TO THE COUP.
SIGNIFICANTLY, THE PRC MEDIA HAS AVOIDED ANY MENTION OF THE
MASS EXECUTION OF FORMER ETHIOPIAN LEADERS OR OF ANY OTHER
ACTIVITIES OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. THE PRC MAY SEE THE
NEW GOVERNMENT AS AFFORDING GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR A MODEST
GROWTH OF CHINESE INFLUENCE BUT FOR THE PRESENT PEKING APPEARS
TO BE WAITING FOR THE DUST TO SETTLE.
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7. THAI TRADE DELEGATION

IN PREPARATION FOR THE THAI TRADE DELEGATION, NCNA ON DECEMBER 17
ANNOUNCED THAILAND'S DECEMBER 6 REPEAL OF THE DECREE BANNING
TRADE WITH THE PRC. THE DELEGATION ARRIVED IN PEKING DECEMBER 20,
MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA ON DECEMBER 23 AND HAS
BEEN MET BY BOTH CCPIT OFFICIALS AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER
HAN NIEN-LUNG. INCLUSION IN THE DELEGATION OF THE THAI
AMBASSADOR TO THE UN AND THE ATTENTION PAID TO IT BY THE PRC
FOREIGN MINISTRY INDICATE THAT THE GROUP IS TESTING THE POLITICAL,
AS WELL AS THE TRADE, CLIMATE IN PEKING (BANGKOK 19331; NCNA
DECEMBER 17, 20-22).
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8. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIST HONG KONG NEWSPAPER, WEN WEI PAO,
THE THAI AGRICULTURE DEPUTY MINISTER, TANNERT BURANA SINPIN,
ENTERED CHINA ON DECEMBER 21, REPORTEDLY ON HIS WAY TO PEKING.
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9. VIETNAM

THE ANNIVERSARIES OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT AND OF THE

VIETNAM PEOPLE'S ARMY THIS YEAR RECEIVED MORE PRC ATTENTION THAN
LAST. ON THE NLF ANNIVERSARY, NCNA DID NOT CARRY THE
CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THUNG PI-WU AND CHOU EN-LAI, WHICH
WAS BROADCAST IN VIETNAMESE. HOWEVER, NCNA DID REPORT RALLIES
IN HANOI AND QUANG TRI AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER HAN NIEN-LUNG'S
HEADING THE PRC CONTINGENT TO THE PRG CHARGE'S PEKING RECEPTION.
A DECEMBER 19 NCNA CORRESPONDENT'S ARTICLE CONSIDERED 1974 AS
A "VICTORIOUS YEAR OF STRUGGLE," EMPHASIZING THE SUCCESSES OF
THE PRC AND DEFEATS OF THE "THIEU CLIQUE" BUT ONLY MENTIONING
THE U.S. IN PASSING.
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10 ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE VPA, YANG
CHENG-WU, DEPUTY PLA CHIEF OF STAFF, HOSTED A BANQUET FOR A
VISITING VPA DELEGATION, THE NATIONAL DEFENSE MINISTRY HELD A
"GRAND MEETING," AND THE DRVN MILITARY ATTACHE HOSTED A
RECEPTION. IN HIS REMARKS, YANG ACCUSED THE U.S. OF VIOLATING
THE PARIS AGREEMENTS AND PLEDGED CONTINUING PRC SUPPORT TO THE
"JUST STRUGGLE" OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. IN 1973 PEKING GAVE
RELATIVELY LITTLE ATTENTION TO VPA FOUNDING DAY AND APPARENTLY
NEGLECTED HAVING ANY PRC-SPONSORED RECEPTION ON THE OCCASION
(1973 WR 52; NCNA DECEMBER 19-22).
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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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COMIPAC

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 HONG KONG 13848

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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11. MOBUTU VISIT

ZAIRE PRESIDENT MOBUTU CONTINUED TO RECEIVE THE TRADITIONAL
PRC RED-CARPET TREATMENT FOR AFRICAN VISITORS (WR 51). HAVING
MET MAO AND CHOU HIS FIRST TWO DAYS IN PEKING, MOBUTU WAS CALLED
UPON BY PRINCE SIHANOUK, HELD HIS THRID MEETING WITH VICE PREMIER
TENG HSIAO-PING, THEN SPENT FOUR DAYS IN A WELL-PUBLICIZED TOUR
OF OTHER CHINESE CITIES PRIOR TO DEPARTING FROM CANTON FOR HOME
ON DECMEBER 22. TO DATE, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN NO PRESS
COMMUNIQUE OR REPORT OF ANY AGREEMENTS BEING SIGNED DURING THE
VISIT (NCNA DECEMBER 18-22).

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12. UNITED NATIONS

IN TWO ARTICLES ON DECEMBER 20, PRC MEDIA BLASTED BOTH THE USSR AND THE U.S. FOR THEIR "SLANDER" OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AT THE UN. THE ARTICLES ATTACKED THE SOVIETS PRIMARILY FOR THEIR STATEMENTS AGAINST UN CHARTER REVIEW AND THE U.S. FOR AMBASSADOR SCALI'S DECEMBER 6 UNGA STATEMENT. THE ARTICLES DEPICTED THE SUPERPOWERS AS UNWILLING TO GIVE UP THEIR "SPECIAL PRIVILEGES" IN THE UN AND AS HAVING MANIPULATED THE UN IN THE PAST. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ARTICLES PRAISED THE THIRD WORLD, FOR HAVING STRUGGLED AGAINST SUPERPOWER HEGEMONISM

AND HAVING GAINED ITS "JUST MAJORITY" IN THE UN (NCNA, DECEMBER 20).

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